

Elements of a Watershed Based Plan

All watershed projects using Section 319 funds must develop a watershed-based plan, whether they are designed to protect unimpaired waters, restore impaired waters or both. *The majority of the criteria required in a watershed-based plan are currently required in Iowa's Water Quality Project Applications; however, we are providing the following information so all applicants understand the requirements as stated by EPA.* In addition, the attached table must be completed which clearly identifies the location of such information in the application, to assure the requirement is adequately addressed.

For projects funded with incremental Section 319 dollars (those projects dealing with impaired waters), where a NPS TMDL has already been developed and approved, or is being developed, the watershed-based plan must be designed to achieve the load reductions called for in the NPS TMDL. However, where a NPS TMDL has not yet been finalized and approved or is not yet being developed, the plan must be designed to reduce nonpoint source pollutant loadings that are contributing to water quality threats and impairments. Where feasible, the plan should be designed to meet water quality standards.

The following information must be included in watershed-based plans:

1. An identification of the causes and sources or groups of similar sources that will need to be controlled to achieve the load reductions estimated in this watershed-based plan (and to achieve any other watershed goals identified in the watershed-based plan), as discussed in item (2) immediately below. Sources that need to be controlled should be identified with an estimate of the extent to which they are present in the watershed (e.g., X number of cattle feedlots needing upgrading, including a rough estimate of the number of cattle per facility; Y acres of row crops needing improved nutrient management or sediment control; Z linear miles of eroded streambank needing remediation, etc.).
2. An estimate of the load reductions expected for the management measures described under (3) below. Estimates should be provided at the same level as in item (1) above (e.g., the total load reduction expected for dairy cattle feedlots, row crops, or eroded streambanks, etc.).
3. A description of the NPS management measures that will need to be implemented to achieve the load reductions estimated under (2) above (as well as to achieve other watershed goals identified in this watershed-based plan), and an identification (using a map or a description) of the critical areas in which those measures will be needed to implement this plan.
4. An estimate of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities that will be relied upon, to implement this plan.
5. An information/education component that will be used to enhance public understanding of the project.
6. A schedule for implementing the NPS management measures identified in this plan.

7. A description of interim, measurable milestones for determining whether NPS management measures or other control actions are being implemented.
8. A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made towards water quality standards; and if not, the criteria for determining whether this watershed-based plan needs to be revised.
9. A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts over time, measured against the criteria established under item (8) above.

EPA Required Element	Page or location in the Application
1. Identification of the causes and sources that will need to be controlled to achieve the load reductions estimated in this plan (Sources that need to be controlled should be identified at the significant subcategory level with estimates of the extent to which they are present in the watershed; i.e., X number of cattle present, Y acres of row crop needing nutrient management or sediment control, Z miles of streambank needing stabilization, etc.).	
2. An estimate of the load reductions expected for the management measures implemented below (number 3) to address items identified above (number 1)	
3. Description of NPS management measures need to be implemented to achieve load reductions (number 2) and an identification of critical areas (map or narrative)	
4. Estimate of financial and technical assistance needed	
5. Identification of an information/education component	
6. A schedule	
7. Description of interim, measurable milestones for determining whether NPS management measures or control actions are being implemented	
8. Set of criteria to be used to determine whether load reductions are being achieved	
9. A monitoring component to evaluate effectiveness of the implementation efforts	To be developed in cooperation with DNR.